

REVIEWED BY John Lee DATE 1/22/82

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Saigon A- 574

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4. The Upper House bill specifies a three-year term for councilmen, who may run for re-election. (The Lower House bill had omitted, probably by simple oversight, reference to the term of office.) The Upper House retained the Lower House provision that candidates must be 25 years of age. Candidacies must be filed by February 14, 1970.

5. The bill passed the Upper House by a vote of 43-1, and has been returned to the Lower House for second round action. The Lower House is also considering in committee a bill redefining the organization and authority of provincial and municipal councils. Action on this measure is expected this session.

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO CINC PAC, DA NANG, PARIS

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

SUBJECT: Pleiku Elects Lower House Member

REF : A. Saigon A-444, September 9
B. Saigon A-471, September 20CINC PAC FOR POLAD
PARIS FOR VIET-NAM MISSION

1. SUMMARY. Ho Uyen, private secretary to the Province Chief, won the Pleiku September 28 by-election for the Lower House with more than half again as many votes as his nearest opponent. Uyen, a man of doubtful reputation, is generally agreed to have bought the election; his large margin of victory was provided by rural Montagnard votes. His long residence in Pleiku was an additional advantage.

2. Special official support provided to LTC Nguyen Thanh Van was insufficient to elect him, but fears that the highly corrupt Capt. Ton That Viet Hung would win were dispelled by his finishing fourth in a field of seven. The results of the election have been challenged by one of the losers, and the whole situation is made especially embarrassing for the authorities in Pleiku by Uyen's close official relationship to the Province Chief. END SUMMARY.

3. In a by-election on September 28, 1969, Ho Uyen, private secretary to the Pleiku Province Chief, won the right to represent that Province in the Lower House. Mr. Uyen, with a total of 18,140 votes, got more than half as many as his nearest competitor, LTC Nguyen Thanh Van (Ref B) who received 11,926 votes. Third with 11,617 was Capt. Pham Phung, while Capt. Ton That Viet Hung (Refs A and B) was fourth with 11,162 votes. Three further candidates finished far out of the running in the race for the seat vacated by Ho Van Ba more than six months ago.

4. Mr. Uyen's astonishingly wide margin of victory came from outside Pleiku city, where he placed fourth. Uyen was especially successful

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